

# **The Mason School**

## **(Case Study)**

The Youth Opportunity Roxbury team from the summer of 2001 saw the effects of bullying at summer day camp and decided to do something about it. They brainstormed and wrote an anti-bullying curriculum, and then put it in place at the Mason Elementary School in Roxbury.

The YO team leader facilitated the first discussion that the members had about bullying – what it meant to them and how they interpreted its effects on young people – and then the members decided to put their ideas into action. They broke into teams and created age-appropriate anti-bullying workshops, using different techniques such as fostering a dialogue among the children and creating art projects depicting the effects of bullying. They then each taught two fifty-minute workshops to the children, ages six to ten.

The members all felt successful in this endeavor and the feedback from the teachers was very positive. It helped build confidence in the members, as well as provide them with opportunities to teach and get to know local children. Through this project, the members were able to reach out to youth in their community and address an issue that is as relevant in the Mason School as it is in the lives of the YO members.

The members felt strong ownership of the curriculum that they created. After researching the topic and having an open discussion with their peers, the members were able to collaborate with each other to produce an end product that addressed the issue. Then, they were able to successfully educate youth on how this issue affects them, and how it can be stopped.